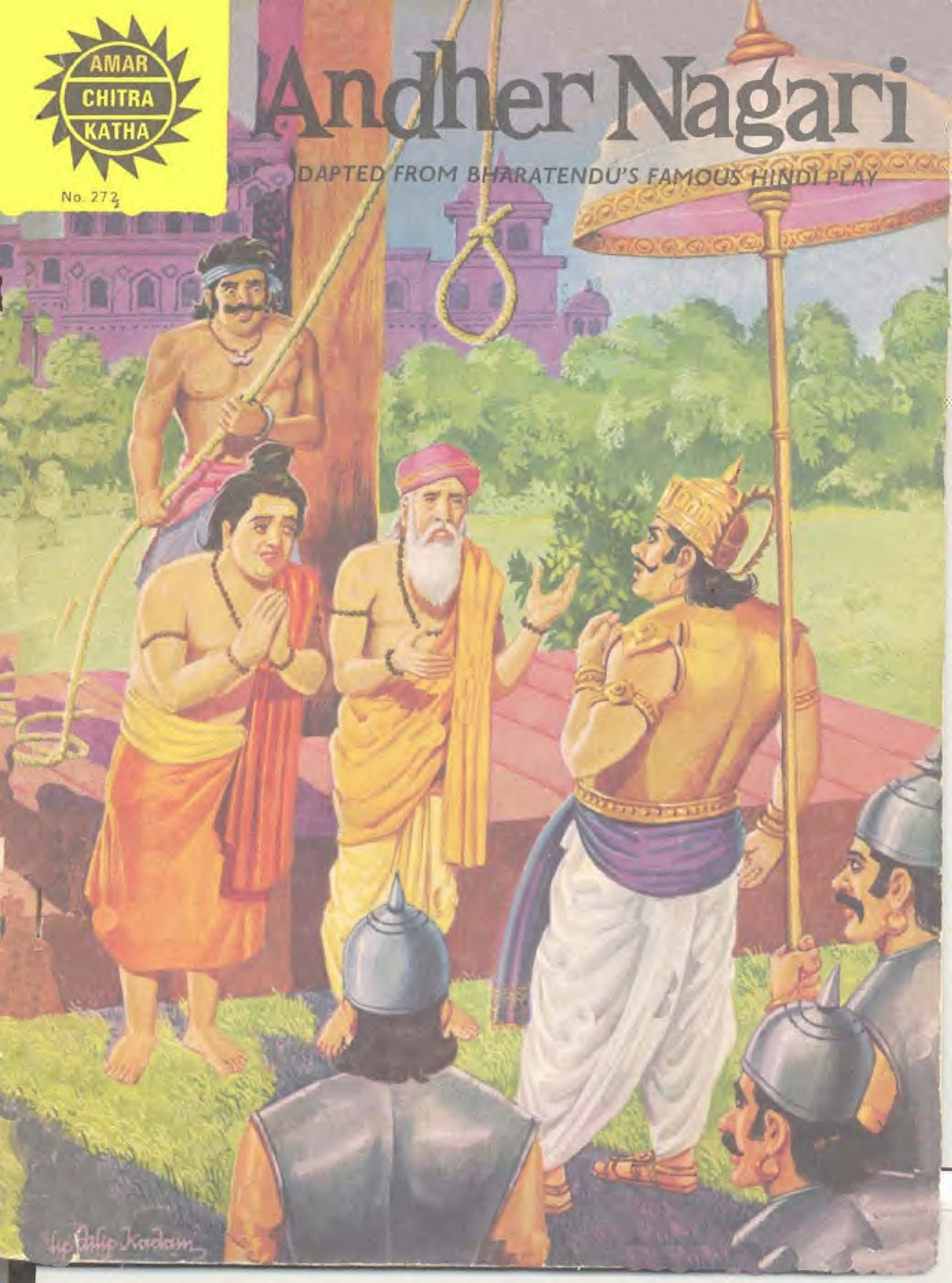




No. 272

Andher Nagari

ADAPTED FROM BHARATENDU'S FAMOUS HINDI PLAY



by Philip Karam

ANDHER NAGARI

Bharatendu Harishchandra (1850-1885 A.D.) is known as the father of modern Hindi prose. This great author wrote 175 works in his short life-span of 35 years. These consist of poems, plays, stories and articles. Though the subject of his poetry was mainly love and Bhakti, he wrote a number of plays and poems that reflect the prevalent social conditions. He edited and published a Hindi magazine in which he advocated social reforms. His play, "Andher Nagari Chaupat Raja" is a delightful blend of didacticism and entertainment.

The first story of this Amar Chitra Katha is based on Bharatendu's play, the text of which was made available to us by Smt. Shantidevi Motichandra. The play is based on a popular folktale of the time. The second story is another well-known folktale of North India.

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Amar Chitra Katha
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(Title No.273—issue dated November 1, 1982)

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Hazaar Maarya

**Script : Sudha Nileshwar &
Luis M. Fernandes**

Artworks:

Arvind Mandrekar

OUR NEXT TITLE:
The Churning of the Ocean

When
you buy a
**Chitra
Katha**
make sure
it is



ANDHER NAGARI



ONCE UPON A TIME A WANDERING SADHU AND HIS DISCIPLES CAME TO A TOWN TO WHICH THEY HAD NEVER BEEN BEFORE.



WE ARE SURE TO GET A MEAL HERE. NARAYANDAS, YOU GO TO THE HOUSES IN THAT DIRECTION.



AND GOVARDHPANDAS, YOU GO TO THOSE IN THIS DIRECTION.



SOMETIME LATER —

OH, NO! NOT MONEY AGAIN!



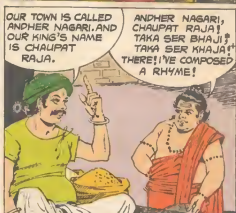
EVERYONE HAS DROPPED ONLY COINS INTO MY BOWL. I'LL HAVE TO BUY SOME FOOD.

AS HE WALKED THROUGH
THE TOWN —

TAKA* SER!
TAKA SER!

WHAT COULD
THEY BE SELLING
AT A TAKA A SER?
I'D BETTER HURRY
BEFORE THEY
SELL OUT.





WHEN HE RETURNED TO THE GURU—

WELL, SON, YOUR BUNDLE SEEMS TO BE QUITE HEAVY! DID YOU VISIT MANY HOUSEHOLDS?



WELL, NOT EXACTLY, GURUJI. BUT WAIT TILL I TELL YOU ALL.

WHEN HE FINISHED HIS STORY—

ISN'T THIS TOWN GREAT, GURUJI?

NO, MY SON. NOT AT ALL!



BUT... BUT...



PEOPLE HERE DO NOT SEEM TO KNOW THE VALUE OF THINGS. THEY SEEM TO BE FOOLS!

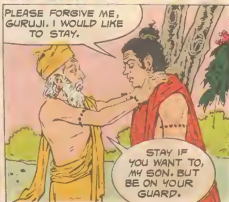
LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE.

GO AWAY?



BUT... BUT I THINK THIS TOWN HAS NO PARALLEL! LIFE HERE WILL BE A BED OF ROSES!

PLEASE FORGIVE ME, GURUJI. I WOULD LIKE TO STAY.



STAY IF YOU WANT TO, MY SON. BUT BE ON YOUR GUARD.

NARAYANDAS, DO
YOU, TOO, WISH
TO STAY?

NO,
GURUJI.

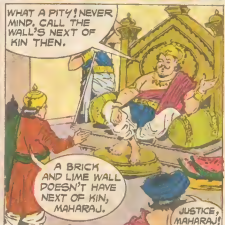
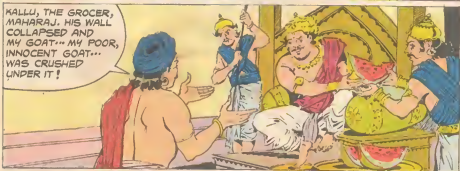
HE IS A GREAT MAN,
NO DOUBT, BUT
A SIMPLETON WHEN
IT COMES TO
PRACTICAL
MATTERS.

THEN LET
US GO.

AHA!
ANDHER NAGARI IS
GREAT! LONG LIVE
CHAUPAT RAJA—
THE WISEST AND
THE FAIREST
OF KINGS!

GOVARDHANDAS PERHAPS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SO LAVISH IN HIS PRAISE OF THE KING IF HE COULD HAVE SEEN WHAT WAS HAPPENING AT THE PALACE AT THAT MOMENT.

JUSTICE!
I WANT
JUSTICE!



ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! BRING KALLU HERE, IMMEDIATELY!

YES, MAHARAJ.

THE GROCER WAS BROUGHT TO THE PALACE.

YOUR NEIGHBOUR SAYS YOUR WALL COLLAPSED ON HIS GOAT.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?

IT... IT WAS NOT M-MY FAULT, MAHARAJ.

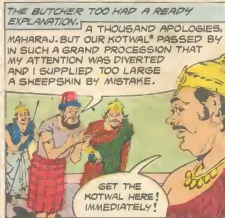
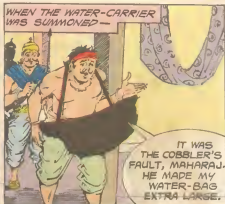
IF... IF THE CONTRACTOR HAD BUILT A STRONGER WALL IT WOULD NEVER HAVE COLLAPSED.

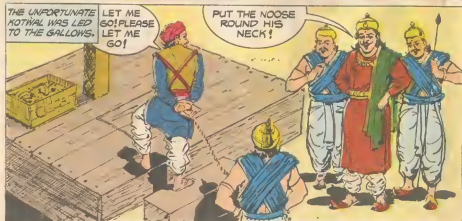
THE CONTRACTOR WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE KING.

THE WALL YOU BUILT COLLAPSED AND A GOAT WAS KILLED!

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY IN YOUR DEFENCE?

YOU HAVE GOT THE WRONG MAN, MAHARAJ! IT'S THE WATER-CARRIER WHO IS TO BE BLAMED.

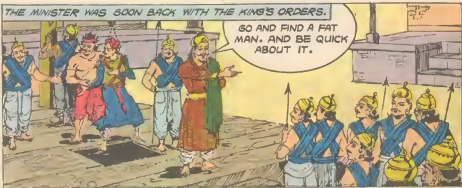




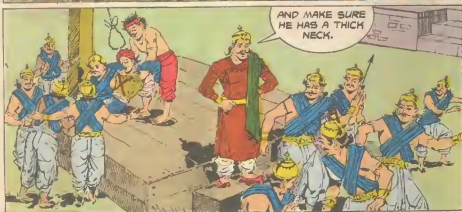




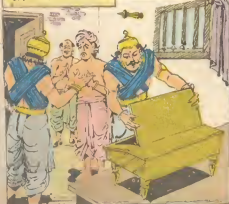
THE MINISTER WAS SOON BACK WITH THE KING'S ORDERS.



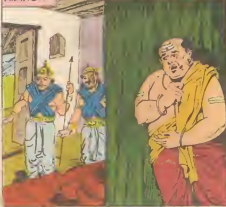
AND MAKE SURE HE HAS A THICK NECK.



THE SOLDIERS LOOKED EVERYWHERE FOR A FAT MAN...



...BUT ALL THE FAT MEN HAD GONE INTO HIDING.



IF WE DON'T FIND
A FAT MAN SOON, THE
KING WILL HANG US
INSTEAD.



I CAN ALREADY FEEL
THE NOOSE ROUND
MY NECK.



LOOK A FAT
MAN!



ANDHER...
NAGARI...
CHAUPAT...
RAJA...

IT WAS GOVARDHANDAS. HE HAD EATEN ALL THE
SWEETS AND HAD SETTLED DOWN TO SLEEP.

WHAT
A STROKE OF
LUCK!

TAKA... SER...
SER... BHA...
BHA...



HE'S ASLEEP!
WHAT SHOULD
WE DO?

HE'S JUST
DOZING.



WAKE UP,
FAT MAN!



EH?
SOLDIERS!

GET UP!
WE HAVE NO
TIME TO
LOSE.



THE HANGMAN IS
WAITING.

HANGMAN?



I DON'T
KNOW ANY
HANGMAN.

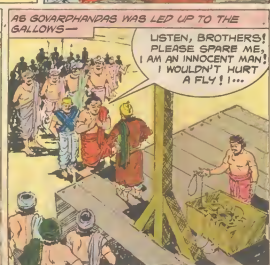
YOU'LL KNOW
ONE SOON
ENOUGH.

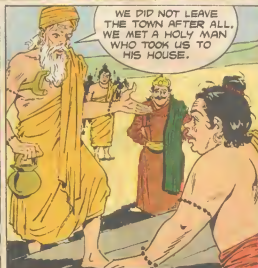


WHAT
DOES HE
MEAN?









MAY I HAVE A FEW WORDS WITH MY DISCIPLE IN PRIVATE? MY LAST SERMON TO HIM. YOU HAVE NO OBJECTION, I HOPE.

NONE, WHATSOEVER, HOLY ONE, PLEASE GO AHEAD.



I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! HOW ABSOLUTELY DIVINE! OH, HOW FORTUNATE I AM!



I CAN'T WAIT ANYMORE! PLEASE HANG ME SOON! THIS MOMENT!

NO, WAIT!

?



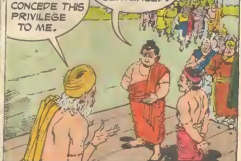
YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME, YOUR GURU. I MUST BE HANGED IN YOUR PLACE. PLEASE!

BUT YOU CAN'T DEPRIVE ME OF MY GOOD LUCK, GURUJI.



SON, I AM AN OLD MAN. YOU SHOULD CONCEDE THIS PRIVILEGE TO ME.

YOU FORGET IT WAS I WHO WAS SENTENCED.



BESIDES, YOU ARE A SAINT. YOU'LL GO TO HEAVEN IN ANY CASE, WHEREAS THIS IS MY ONLY CHANCE.



JUST THEN—

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHY HAVEN'T YOU HANGED THIS MAN AS YET?



IT'S QUITE PUZZLING, MAHARAJ. BOTH, THIS MAN AND HIS GURU, ARE EQUALLY KEEN ON BEING HANGED.

MAHARAJ, I DESERVE TO BE HANGED. I WAS THE CHOSEN ONE.

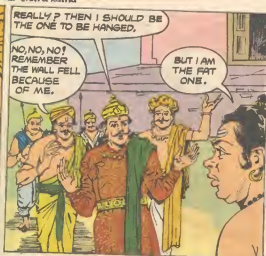
DON'T LISTEN TO MY DISCIPLE, MAHARAJ. PLEASE HANG ME!



BUT WHY, O HOLY ONE? WHY DO YOU WANT TO DIE?

BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT NOBODY... NOBODY EXCEPT MY DISCIPLE... KNOWS.



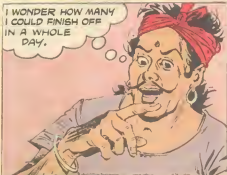


HAZAAR MAARYA

IN THE KINGDOM OF RAJPUK THERE LIVED A LAZY MAN CALLED BALU.



HIS WIFE SONI BAI WAS ALWAYS TRYING TO GET HIM TO DO SOME WORK.



FROM THAT DAY, BALU WAS A MAN WITH A MISSION. HE WOULD KILL FLIES WHENEVER AND WHEREVER HE SAW THEM.



EVEN AT HOME, AT MEAL TIMES, HE DID NOT RELAX.



GOT THEM!

OH! YOU'VE SPILT MY DELICIOUS CURRY.

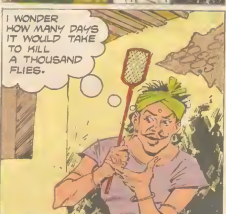


I HAVE KILLED SEVENTY-THREE FLIES TODAY.



JUST IMAGINE! SEVENTY-AHH!

GET OUT OF HERE!



I WONDER HOW MANY DAYS IT WOULD TAKE TO KILL A THOUSAND FLIES.

AT LAST ONE DAY —



HA! THAT MAKES THE THOUSANDTH FLY! I'VE KILLED A THOUSAND.

HE HAS KILLED A THOUSAND!

THERE GOES THE KILLER OF A THOUSAND!

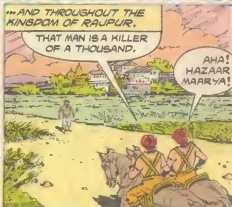


AND SO THE WORD SPREAD IN THE TOWN...

...AND THROUGHOUT THE KINGDOM OF RAUPUR.

THAT MAN IS A KILLER OF A THOUSAND.

AHA! HAZAAR MAARYA!



SOME DAYS LATER AT THE KING'S COURT —

MAHARAJ, OUR ENEMIES ARE AT THE CITY GATES.



THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS, SEVERAL HUNDRED HORSES AND AT LEAST A HUNDRED ELEPHANTS.

THEIR SWORDS AND ARMOUR DAZZLE THE EYE.



OUR ARMY IS STRONG ENOUGH, MAHARAJ. BUT WE LACK AN ABLE GENERAL.

SEND OUT A DOZEN MESSENGERS TO LOOK FOR A WORTHY MAN. HE SHOULD BE HERE BEFORE SUNDOWN.



THE SEARCH BEGAN. MESSENGERS WERE DESPATCHED TO EVERY CORNER OF THE KINGDOM.



ONE MESSENGER RODE TO THE MARKET-PLACE, THERE —



HERE COMES HAZAAR MAARYA!

HE'S THE GREAT WARRIOR WHO HAS KILLED A THOUSAND. ISN'T HE?

THE MESSENGER RUSHED BACK TO THE KING.



MAHARAJ, THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY SPEAK HIGHLY OF A BRAVE WARRIOR KNOWN AS HAZAAR MAARYA!

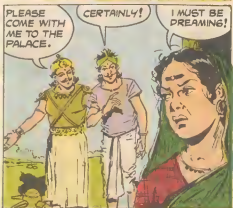
SUMMON HIM HERE!

VERY SOON, AT HAZAAR MAARYA'S COTTAGE —



O BRAVE WARRIOR, THE KING WISHES TO HONOUR YOU WITH A HIGH OFFICE.

A HIGH OFFICE?



PLEASE COME WITH ME TO THE PALACE.

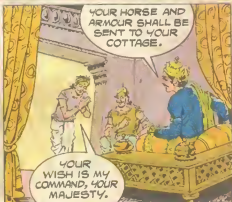
CERTAINLY!

I MUST BE DREAMING!

LATER, AT THE
PALACE—

SO YOU ARE THE FAMOUS
HAZAAR MAARYA. WE ARE
TOLD YOU HAVE KILLED
A THOUSAND.

THAT'S
TRUE,
MAHARAJ.



THAT NIGHT AT THE ENEMY CAMP —

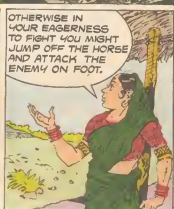
DO YOU KNOW WHO IS
TO LEAD THE ARMY OF
RAJPUK TOMORROW?

IT'S HAZAAR
MAARYA!

HAZAAR MAARYA...
THE KILLER OF
A THOUSAND.

THE NEWS SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE
THROUGHOUT THE ENEMY CAMP.

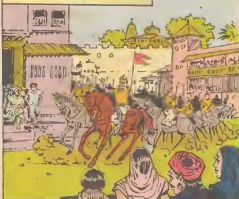
WHEN MORNING DAWNED—



LATER AT THE PALACE GROUNDS—



THE ARMY RODE OUT...



...TO THE BATTLEFIELD.



WHAT A HUGE
ARMY THEY
HAVE!



MY GOD, THEY ARE SHOOTING AT
US! ... I COULD VERY EASILY
GET HURT HERE!

WHAT SHOULD
WE DO, SIR?

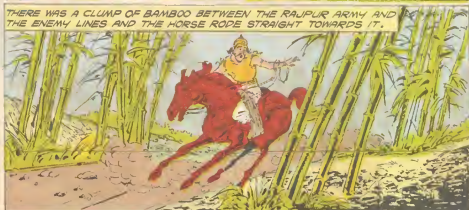
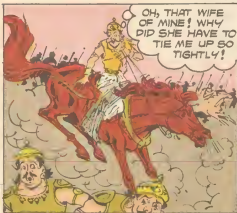
RETREAT! I MEAN
ATTACK! BUT LET'S
NOT GO TOO
CLOSE!



THE RAIPUR ARMY WAS SOON ROUTED.



MY SOLDIERS ARE
RUNNING AWAY.
I MUST SAVE
MYSELF.



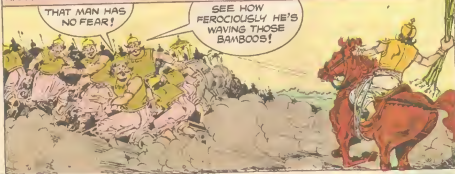
HAZAAR MAARYA CLUTCHED AT THE BAMBOO TREES TO SAVE HIMSELF...

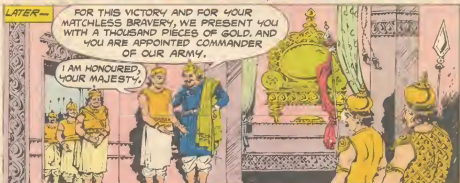


...BUT THE STALKS WERE ROTTEN AT THE ROOTS AND CAME OFF IN HIS HANDS.



THE ENEMY SOLDIERS HOWEVER, WERE UNAWARE OF WHAT WAS REALLY HAPPENING. THEY THOUGHT HAZAAR MAARYA WAS COMING TO ATTACK THEM.





THUS THE LAZY BALU BECAME THE BRAVE GENERAL, HAZAR MAARYA, FAMOUS FOR HIS RARE COURAGE, AND FROM THAT DAY HE DIDN'T KILL A SINGLE FLY!



The Kissan Range

Mixed fruit, pineapple, strawberry, raspberry, mango, apple, apricot, Goldenmist orange marmalade and guava jelly

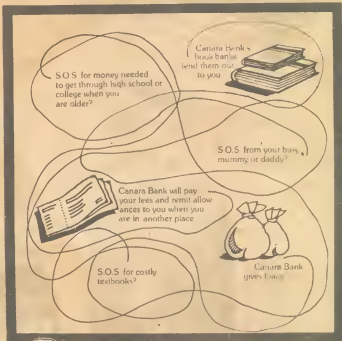


**JAM
GOOD**

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S.O.S. MAZE



CANARA BANK

(A nationalised bank)

Riddle me riddle me ree For mummy and daddy and me

Canbank's Nature Quiz

1. Why do woodpeckers peck at trees?
2. Why do some birds eat grit?
3. When do owls hunt?
4. Name a fish-eating bird starting with the letter C.
5. Name the only swimming bird.

Hooray for bright students!
Be a bright student! Be
"ambitious". And remember
Canara Bank helps bright young
people like you with loans for
higher education.

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Tell your mummy or daddy to
open an account for you in
Canara Bank. If you are 14 you
can yourself open and operate
the account. Come and have
the thrill all for yourself. With
just Rs 5/- you can start today

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Engineer??? Scientist??? Then
Vidyanidhi is the answer. Tell
mummy and daddy to start an
account today. Your higher
studies will be free from
worries.

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Smart kids don't spend all their
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daddy to open a Balakshema
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Answers:

1. They eat worms and insects in the bark.
2. It helps them to digest hard foods.
3. At night.
4. Cormorant.
5. Penguin.



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Right-o pardner, Dipy's is a real turn-on. There's ketchups and lip-smacking jams to drive any hombre wild. Ketchups. From the reddest, ripest, juiciest tomatoes. And fruity Dipy's Jams. Delicious. Nutritious. Tongue-tingling! They're burstin' our saddlebags. Want to help us unload?

